

Submitter:

David Kracke

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2977

Dear Senate Committee on Rules,

I am submitting this statement in strong support of HB 2977, and I will address two provisions within the bill that I believe are important to consider.

The first issue relates to poaching of Oregon's wildlife. I know firsthand that absolutely no one sides with poachers. Poachers steal from Oregon through their completely unethical taking of Oregon's wildlife, and do so in a manner that is antithetical to the ethos adhered to by Oregon's legitimate hunters. In doing so, they deprive Oregonians of the right to experience wildlife in its natural habitat, and they deprive Oregon of the revenue associated with hunting permits. The poachers also disrupt the science behind the issuing of hunting permits.

this important bill provides for a "roving" district attorney who will supplement local law enforcement and prosecutors by providing the local community with a dedicated DA with the necessary expertise and trial experience to ensure that the poachers will be tried effectively and punished accordingly. This will result in an increase in fines received by the State and further enhance the efficiencies inherent in this arrangement.

The second point I'd like to emphasize is that the programs contemplated by this bill will be largely funded by out of state visitors. Using the Temporary Occupancy Tax (TOT) to fund these programs makes perfect sense. Visitors are drawn to Oregon largely because of our incredible environment and wildlife. It makes sense that these same visitors should foot the majority of the bill for these programs since the programs will enhance both Oregon's environment and its wildlife.

Thank you for considering my views expressed here, and I encourage you to pass this important bill.

Sincerely,

David Kracke

Member, WildAid International Advisory Council